

# MAGAZINE SECTION.

## She Foretells the Fate of Royalty



## THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

**MADAME DE THEBES**  
CLAIRVOYANT FOR  
NOBILITY, IS A  
WOMAN OF REMARK-  
ABLE CHARACTER.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

**P**ARIS, Oct. 17.—The sanctum of Mme. de Thebes, the clairvoyant of European aristocracy, is chiefly remarkable for its exhibition of plaster of Paris hands. Hands, hands, hands—the hands of all the royalty that sits on thrones, big and small, and of its cousins that merely aspire to such a piece of furniture.

The fine long hand of the Czarina edges the brutal, big fist of the Prince of Bulgaria. Here we have the misfortune-pregnant hand of Queen Margherite, and next to it her late husband's, with the death line unduly prominent.

"This," said Mme. de Thebes, pointing to a thick, almost unworldly block, "is not a pugilist's fist, but the facsimile of Emperor William's terrible right; the neighboring one, almost its female counterpart, belongs to an ambitious, headstrong young person, the Queen of Holland. Its lines indicate that she will soon marry, the protest of her State Council notwithstanding. Wait until she achieves her highest ambition—motherhood; she won't do a thing to that Council and Parliament of hers."

Mme. de Thebes is a good-looking woman of about 42 or 45, and her apartment on the Champs d'Elysee bears testimony to the large fortune her trade has brought her. Your correspondent went there by Madame's special invitation, and as I made my way through the ante-chamber dozens of envious eyes followed me. Most of them were female eyes, but several pairs belonged to well-known French statesmen. "Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess X. Y. desires to see you at once," reported a liveried servant even before I had taken my seat in the sanctum.

"Sorry, but she must wait until I get through with this lady," answered the clairvoyant, as unconcernedly as if the visitor were her laundress. Of course, Mme. de Thebes can do these things, for her yearly income from regular customers is above 100,000 francs, occasional enormous fees from royalty not included.

### The Human Hand Ever Truthful.

Speaking of her business with the world's great, she said: "I think chirography, or the art of reading the past, present and future in the formation of the hands, has so many followers among royal persons chiefly because the hand does not dissemble. Kings, Queens and Emperors and Princes and Princesses of all countries are in the habit of assuming a mask that imposes silence upon their eyes as well as their lips; in short, upon their entire physiognomy. They train their face to be a sealed book to all, friends and enemies. But while they may deceive others, they do not deceive themselves. Like ordinary mortals, they are subject to fits of ill temper and despondency, have their evil forebodings and ambitions. Moreover, personal and national politics frequently makes it desirable for them to lift the veil from the future, if possible.

"As the hand represents human action in its entirety and as its expression is never misleading—for it cannot be varied at will like the face—it is eminently qualified to divulge one's destiny in those lines that correspond in every way with the principles of life and character.

"My art is really nothing but a certain intuitive faculty enabling me to warn people of approaching dangers or to buoy up their hopes by foretelling pleasant conditions toward which they are drifting. My teacher, the great Desbarrolles, likened his science to that of the astronomer, who, sitting in his observatory, predicts storm or fine weather, according to the influence of the heavenly bodies upon the earth. Chirography, likewise, bases upon natural influences, tendencies and signs.

"Some people call chirography 'absurd' because, there being more misfortune than good luck in the world, we are often obliged to foretell evil. Yes, there is a painful side to our art, and the knowledge we acquire is not always of a pleasant character. Involuntarily we learn of the ultimate fate of people who like to think of their future as a bright and happy one. They blame us instead of taking precautionary measures to ward off the threatening danger.

"Once I was able to save a King's life by making him understand the danger of his position, but he became careless in the end, and now lies a dead man in the society of his forefathers."

### Predicted King of Italy's Danger.

Mme. de Thebes referred to the case of the late King of Italy, Umberto. At the beginning of the year 1897 Queen Margherite was sorely troubled by fears for her husband's life. Dread of assassination gave her no peace, and finally she decided to consult a clairvoyant, and sent for Mme. de Thebes. As the Parisienne had never been in Rome, she calculated that the intrigues of the court set and Italian politicians wishing to intimidate the King could have no possible influence upon her.

"I received a fee of 10,000 francs in advance," said Mme.



Madame de Thebes in her Workroom.

## PREPARING FOR HUMBERT'S SITTING.

"I received a fee of 10,000 francs in advance," said Mme. de Thebes, "but refused to see her Majesty until the plaster casts of Umberto's hands had been in my possession for at least three days. I desired to study them. The request was granted after some delay, as the King was loath to give an impression of his manual features. At last Sig. Crispi succeeded in persuading him. Crispi is an old customer of mine. While Premier he insisted upon consulting me on all sorts of subjects, and doing the very

things I had warned him against. To mention only one of many instances, he came to see me in Paris during the winter of 1896, and, to my great horror, I read nothing but war, defeat and personal disaster in his hands. I prophesied that his boasted African Empire of Erythria would come to a bad end, that a great dark-skinned King (Mencilik) would annihilate the Italian forces and that he himself would have to retire from politics in disgrace. As everything happened as foretold, Crispi had abundant reason for trusting in my art."

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house at the outskirts of the city. Her Majesty was heavily veiled and spoke only a few words to me, but removed her gloves unhesitatingly when I requested it. I saw at a glance that my worst fears were corroborated, for in the center of a chained line (in both hands), that extended from the Mount of Venus to that of Mercury I observed the black spot which invariably signifies widowhood, while the line itself denotes worry and many sad experiences.

"I hesitated not a single moment to tell the Queen of the sorrowful prophecy I read in her hand and of the corroborative evidence in her husband's, for there was no time to be lost. The blow was to be struck, sure enough, but if the subject took care to protect himself, he might yet escape.

"An hour later the police force of Rome was in feverish activity. Crispi, then still at the head of affairs, had decided that, after all, there might be something in the reported plots of assassination lately unearthed. A number of the monarchy's most dangerous enemies were jailed, police in citizens' clothes were ordered to patrol the streets through which the King was wont to drive, and many similar preventive measures were instituted. As everybody knows now, they didn't stop the assassin from attempting his abominable crime, but Umberto escaped without a scratch, thanks to my warning.

"Ah, if the King had only listened to his wife and continued to exercise the most ordinary precautions," added Mme. de Thebes, "he might be alive to-day, but he grew tired of being watched. Maybe, too, he regarded the fulfillment of my prophecy as a mere accident and paid no further attention to the warning conveyed by the writing in his hand."

Mme. de Thebes went to a drawer and took from a file of papers a copy of the *Libro Parole*, dated February 14, 1897. Therein her interview with Queen Margherite was fully

reported in the veiled language European newspapers like to employ when speaking of royal personages. At the same time there was an admonition that King Humbert would die by the hands of an assassin if he wasn't more careful.

"I read the fortunes of many other Kings and Queens," continued Mme. de Thebes. "They come to me sometimes incognito, which, of course, I respect; more often they invite me to go to their residences to give one of my seances, in the course of which they have their hands examined by me, usually under pretense of a joke. Well, most of them have their troubles, private or otherwise—these I dare not reveal—but I can truthfully say that, with one or two exceptions, all the monarchs now reigning will die of old age."

### About the Line of Life.

Mme. de Thebes took from a glass case a number of impressions of royal hands which I indicated to her. They weren't labeled on the outside, and I had not the slightest idea whose fate was to be determined. Yet without exception every one of the dozen plaster casts exhibited a long and healthy "line of life." "The line of life," you must know, denotes long life if it completely encircles the ball of the thumb (called Mount of Venus in chirography), and if it is neither too broad nor too fine, yet strong withal, and has no curvatures, breakages, cross bars or irregularities of any description. Each breakage means a serious illness. If the line does not completely encircle the Mount of Venus the individual will not reach old age, and the shorter the line the earlier the period of his or her death.

From what I saw, I am of the opinion that the trade of Kings and Queens must be a healthy one.

### The Kaiser's

#### Palm Considered.

Mme. de Thebes had explained to me that thick and red hands betray violence and brutality of mind; this was some time before the subject of the Kaiser's hands was reached. As already mentioned, the learned Frenchwoman has a facsimile of William's "terrible right," which, quite inadvertently, she characterized as thick and red, probably without remembering that she had already explained the meaning of these adjectives.

Mme. de Thebes wouldn't say where she had examined the Kaiser's hand; most probably the occasion was offered when William and Czar Nicholas met in Breslau, some years ago, for, at that time the Figaro announced her prophecy of a great war in which all European Governments and one great outside Power would engage. This prophecy, it was stated then and there, Thebes had made to two leading sovereigns of the world. Of their identity there can be no doubt, as the article referred to male sovereigns, which, of course, excludes Queen Victoria.

### The Kaiser's

#### Chinese Cartoon.

Moreover William improved upon the opportunity by getting off his well-known Chinese cartoon and dedicating it to Czar Nicholas.

"I referred, of course, to the present Chinese war," said Mme. de Thebes, "and when Emperor Nicholas visited Paris told him that his troops would be the first aggressors. Everybody knows nowadays that my prophecy was fulfilled to the letter, but who would believe that I actually foretold the Chinese war if it wasn't for the Figaro's printed testimony of several years ago?

"At the time my statements created considerable consternation in army circles, and for weeks following young and old officers filled my parlors requesting me to examine their hands. I read blood, battles, arms, and wounds in all of them, death in many. Indications of warlike troubles I also discovered in the hands of Prince Hohenlohe, the German Chancellor, whom I met repeatedly at great Paris houses where I was invited to entertain the guests."

Pressed for a further explanation of the characteristics of the Kaiser's hands, Mme. de Thebes said: "As his Majesty's hands are neither alike in size nor formation, it wouldn't be fair to judge his character from the one or the other. Both hands have this in common: They give evidence of passion for movement, for experimenting and for quick decision."

### "The Pekin Legation's

#### All Right," She Said.

"I was happy to be of service to a great many of my countrymen during those awful days when all Europeans in Pekin were supposed to have been murdered," continued the clairvoyant. "On a single morning I examined the hands of seven women who had sons or daughters in Pekin, diplomats, soldiers or missionaries. The lines indicated that their loved ones were in great danger, but there was no cause for mourning. After that I became interested myself and invited all having friends or relatives with the yellow devils to call upon me without delay. In every hand submitted I found corroborative evidence that the legationaries were in sore peril, but alive, and my hopeful views made such an impression on the public that it began to lose faith in the reported butcheries."

Mme. de Thebes always wears elaborate toilets of light silk when receiving, probably to indicate beforehand that she is not a prophesier of evil. Her motto is: "I do not deceive; I only warn." She is an extremely well-read woman and authoress of the famous volume, "The Enigma of the Hand." The younger Dumas was her friend and became so interested in her art that he called chirography "the grammar of the future." Her house is a museum of works of art and curiosities, but from the ceilings hang bundles of mistletoe instead of chandeliers. Mistletoe is the plant sacred to the mysterious Druids.

### Hands of

#### Royalty on Exhibition.

The glass case containing casts of the hands of royalty attracts, of course, the admiring attention of all visitors, but there are many interesting things besides among the bric-a-brac, particularly a charm which Mme. de Thebes received from Queen Margherite.

It is a silver band with the thumb and two fingers extended, on various parts of which are stamped all sorts of symbols, a saint's head, a serpent, a knife, a toad, a pair of scales, a tortoise and a woman carrying a child. "This is supposed to be a great talisman," said Mme. de Thebes, "and a most potent charm against the evil eye. If I ever go to Italy again I will not fail to wear it around my neck."

I spoke to Madame about the great number and variety of elephant pictures and statuettes hanging and standing about.

"Ah," she said, "the elephant brings luck; he is as potent in that respect as any number of Buddhas you may set up. Besides, he is smart, grateful, good-natured and full of courage and strength; he will always be a good example for us weak mortals to look upon."

Of course, it won't do to quarrel with madam on account of her elephants or her Buddhas, but I confess that I was taken a little aback when I saw among the wall decorations a framed copy of a manuscript by that arch charlatan, Cagliostro. HELOISE, COMTESSE D'ALEMBOURG. Copyright, 1900, by Henry W. Fischer.

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